Mr. M. P. Cherian.—He was not the seniormost man in the 60 to 80 grade at that time.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Then why was he appointed?

Mr. M. P. Cherian—Applications were invited and he was found to be the best man available for that post.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—How was he found to be the best man?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Diwan interviewed with every one of the applicants. They were summoned to the Huzur and the Diwan interviewed every one of them and he was found to be the best man for executive work.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—That he was a member of an unrepresented community was not one of the considerations of the Government.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have not seen anything on record to that effect. I think it would naturally have been one of the reasons.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, Sir, whether the Government has not exercised this preferential treatment in the matter of promotions also. The answer is given that preferential treatment is shown only as regards appointments. Are there not instances of our Government having preferred members of backward communities in the matter of promotions also?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Does the Member mean that after they have entered the service?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Yes.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Bridge over the canal in the accretion lands at Edavanakkad.

309. Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any bridge over the north to south canal in the accretion lands at Edavanakkad;

(b) are not the Government aware that people of the locality are put to great hardship for want of a bridge over the canal?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) No.

(b) There is not great hardship.

Vernacular Education Committee's Report.

310. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Vernacular Education Committee has finished its labours;

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